(000 tonnes)

Year	Total Production
1999-2000	20715.5
2000-2001	18436.8
2001-2002	20460.8

(d) Yes, Sir.

Corporatising DMS

1731. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to corporatise the Delhi Milk Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Valuers have been appointed for valuation of DMS land and assets.

Fall in agricultural production

1732. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Agricultural growth is on the decline, if so, what is the level to be achieved this year;

(b) the States which have reported negative growth;

(c) what are the main causes of the negative growth; and

(d) what major steps are being initiated to improve the agricultural growth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The production of principal agricultural crops in the country shows a long-term upward trend, although with fluctuations caused by factors like changes in weather, availability and utilization of yield enhancing inputs, etc.

During the current year, the production of most of the principal crops is expected to be lower as compared to the previous year as is evident from the following table:

(million tonnes)

Crop	2002-03*	2001-02
Foodgrains	183.17	212.02
Oilseeds**	15.44	20.46
Sugarcane	285.36	300.10
Cotton#	8.94	10.09

* Second Advance Estimates as on 10.2.2003.

** Includes groundnut, castorseed, sesamum, nigerseed, repeseed & mustard, linseed, safflower, sunflower and soyabean.

In million bales of 170 kgs.

(b) and (c) No firm State-wise estimates are availabe yet. However, during the current year, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh faced drought during the monsoon season, due to which the agricultural production was adversely affected.

(d) In order to imporve the performance of the agriculture sector, the Government have taken a number of initiatives such as promotion of watershed development programmes, emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme etc. Besides, the Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum support Price and Market Intervention Schemes. Apart from these, the Government have also adopted macro-management mode for providing assistance to the States. The Macro-Management Scheme integrates 27 schemes into one for supplementing and complementing the efforts of State Governments through work plans. This gives flexibility to States to address specific problems faced by them depending on local requirements, avoid overlapping in the

contents of different schemes and aim at all-round development of agriculture.

Prices monitoring by NPPA

1733. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the system being followed by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) for monitoring the prices of decontrolled drugs; and

(b) whether it is a fact that NPPA has issued notices to companies on the pricing of decontrolled formulations, is so, the names of the companies, the names of the medicines and the prices being charged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) regularly examines the movement of prices of non-Scheduled fromulations on the basis of information available to it from various sources. Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/ selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commision, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. No notices for overcharging have been sent in respect of non-Scheduled formulations.

Fuel used in production of Fertilizers

†1734. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that different types of fuel are being used for production of different Chemicals and Fertilizers in the Country;

(b) if so, name of the fuels used for the production of fertilizers in the country, during the year 2002;

(c) the production capacity of the projects by the use of each type of fuel; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.